

NPN Attends National Rx Drug Abuse

Pam Wong*
Family Services Supervisor
Early Prevention Unit
Norfolk Department of Human Services



Members of the Norfolk Prevention Network traveled to Atlanta, GA March 29, 2016 for the National Rx Drug Abuse Summit. President Barack Obama spoke at the Summit to raise awareness of the prescription opioid abuse and heroin epidemic.

The opioid and prescription drug abuse epidemic has swept through the country. Statistics show that over-

dose deaths from heroin abuse have more than doubled since 2010. More people die each year from drug overdoses than die in car accidents.

President Obama encouraged leaders and advocate to increase efforts on three different fronts: expanding access to treatment, preventing overdose deaths, and increasing community prevention strategies.

Norfolk is one of 12 Virginia recipients of the SAMHSA Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success grant. This is a 5-year renewable grant to reduce Rx opioid and heroin use in Norfolk youth ages 12-25.



* Pam Wong is co-convener for the Norfolk Prevention Network.